

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS ROME 004026

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TSPA](#) [IT](#)

SUBJECT: MINI PRESSURIZED LOGISTICS MODULES (MPLMs) --
REQUEST TO EXCHANGE DIPLOMATIC NOTES

11. Action request: The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) has contacted Embassy Science Section seeking the U.S. response to an Italian Note Verbale dated April 18, 2001 (see paragraph 2) that would implement the U.S.-Italy MOU on mini pressurized logistics modules, signed in Rome by the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and NASA on October 9, 1997. According to the Office for Environment, Space, and Energy in the MFA's General Directorate for Multilateral Economic and Financial Cooperation, the 1997 MOU on MPLMs has not come into force pending the U.S. response to the 2001 Note Verbale. Embassy files do not contain any information regarding this issue. Department/NASA are asked to ascertain the current status of the 1997 MOU and to provide a response to the 2001 Note Verbale as soon as possible.

12. Begin Informal Embassy Translation:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Note Verbale 081/1110

Complimentary opening.

Reference is made to the attached MOU signed in Rome on October 9, 1997, between the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and NASA, which establishes the bilateral collaboration program between ASI and NASA for creating, developing, operating and using, three mini pressurized logistic modules for the International Space Station.

The elaboration of such text has been made necessary in consideration of the technical modifications occurring during the 1990s to the International Space Station project, in which Italy participates both at the bilateral level (MOU signed with the U.S. on December 6, 1991) and at the multilateral level, being signatory to the Intergovernmental Agreement of the International Space Station, signed in Washington on January 29, 1998.

Given the need to modify the 1991 MOU and considering the fact that the 1997 Memorandum, according to Article 2.1, is legally subordinate to the 1998 Intergovernmental agreement (ratified in Italy by law No. 418/2000), and in no way derogates from dispositions contained therein, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs proposes, should the United States agree, that this Note along with the enclosed MOU and the responding note of equal content, constitute an Agreement between the two governments, which will enter into force, as per article 23 of the attached MOU, upon receipt of the responding Note.

Complimentary closure.

Rome, 18 April 2001

End Informal Embassy Translation.

Sembler

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